

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15  
SP-02 PA-01 ICA-11 IO-13 L-03 NSC-05 H-01 /078 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:GDKULICK:DLD

APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES

HA/HR:EOJONES

-----013799 100133Z /70

P 100032Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: CARR, IS

SUBJECT: SAMI ESMAIL: PETITION FROM SUPPORTERS

1. DELEGATION FROM PALESTINE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN (PHRC), HEADED BY CHAIRMAN JAMES ZOGBY, VISITED DEPARTMENT JUNE 9 TO PRESENT APPEAL ON BEHALF OF SAMI ESMAIL WHICH WAS TO BE PRESENTED LATER SAME DAY TO ISRAELI AMBASSADOR DINITZ WITH WHOM THEY HAD ALREADY MADE APPOINTMENT. PRESENTATION WAS MADE TO REPRESENTATIVE OF BUREAU OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS WHO RELAYED THE TEXT OF APPEAL BY TELEPHONE TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VELIOTES IN PRESENCE OF DELEGATION.

2. VELIOTES TOLD DELEGATION WE WOULD ASK EMBASSY TEL AVIV TO INFORM GOI OF APPEAL AND ACCOMPANYING PRESS RELEASE. HE ALSO SAID WE REMAIN INTENSELY INTERESTED IN THE ESMAIL CASE. EMBASSY SHOULD FOLLOW

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THROUGH ON THIS UNDERTAKING AT APPROPRIATE TIME AND LEVEL.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED VERY HEAVY BARRAGE OF TELEPHONE CALLS, TELEGRAMS, AND LETTERS ABOUT THE ESMAIL CASE. THE DOMINANT THEME IS THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INSUFFICIENTLY INTERESTED IN THE ESMAIL CASE, REFLECTING DEPARTMENT'S SLACK OF INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS OF AMCIT ESMAIL AND

IN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY ISRAEL OF PALESTINIANS IN GENERAL.

4. TEXT OF APPEAL, WHICH HAS LENGTHY LIST OF SPONSORS FROM RELIGIOUS, ACADEMIC AND CIVIL LIBERTIES "COMMUNITIES" FOLLOWS. FULL TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE AND LIST OF SPONSORS BEING POUCHEO.

5. "ON JUNE 7TH AN ISRAELI COURT FOUND SAMI ESMAIL, A US CITIZEN, GUILTY OF MEMBERSHIP IN AN ORGANIZATION CONSIDERED ILLEGAL UNDER ISRAELI LAW. THE ISRAELI COURT AND THE PROSECUTION ADMIT THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT MR. ESMAIL COMMITTED OR INTENDED TO COMMIT ANY ACTION AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL. MR. ESMAIL'S RESPONSE TO THIS CONVICTION IS: PLEASE, I AM COMPLETELY INNOCENT OF ALL CHARGES. MY ONLY CRIME IS MY POLITICAL SOLIDARITY WITH THE OPPRESSED AND HOMELESS PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER PEOPLES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. IT WAS PRESENTED TO THE COURT THAT THE USUAL PRISON TERM FOR THE CRIME OF 'MEMBERSHIP' IS FIVE TO SEVEN MONTHS. HOWEVER, THE PROSECUTION IS ASKING FOR A HARSH SENTENCE AS AN EXAMPLE TO DETER OTHERS. AS AMERICANS CONCERNED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS, WE URGE THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES TO CONSIDER THE SIX MONTHS MR. ESMAIL HAS ALREADY SPENT IN PRISON, HIS SUFFERING, AND THE NORMAL SENTENCING PRACTICES OF THE ISRAELI COURTS, AND TO SHOW CLEMENCY AND TO ALLOW HIS IMMEDIATE RETURN TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNITED STATES.

6. IN PRESENTING APPEAL TO DEPARTMENT, ZOGBY MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: THIS APPEAL DEMONSTRATES TO THE ISRAELIS AND TO OUR OWN GOVERNMENT THAT THERE IS BROAD AND INFLUENTIAL PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR MR. ESMAIL. WE WILL NOT FORGET HIM. WE HAVE BEEN VERY DISAPPOINTED BY THE INADEQUATE RESPONSE OF OUR GOVERNMENT TO THE VIOLATIONS OF MR. ESMAIL'S RIGHTS. WE WANT OUR GOVERNMENT TO ACT NOW ON HIS BEHALF AND WE URGE THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW MR. ESMAIL TO COME HOME."

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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